GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1894
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2001
IMPORT OF BOUND ITEMS
TRILOCHAN KANUNGO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(

(a) the details of bound items of imported goods alongwith the current tariff rate with highest bound limit for each of the items; (

(b) the imported bound items which are adversely affecting the indigenous products in our internal market during 2000-2001; (

(c) the steps that are being taken to protect the indigenous producers against such cheaper imported items; (

(d) the price of each of the imported items with the current tariff rate per unit against the price of each of the corresponding indigenous items; and (

(e) the extent to which the import of such goods has affected the indigenous items?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH)

(a) to (e) : Following the Uruguay Round, India`s tariff binding commitments reached up to 67% of a total of 5134 tariff lines in its tariff schedule. A copy of the Schedule has been placed in the Parliament Library, this is also available on the Department of Commerce web site at the following address http://commin.nic.in/doc/indsched.html. The current tariff rates are available on the web site of the Central Board of Excise and Customs at http://www.cbec.gov.in/cae/customs/cs-abc.html.

The government is monitoring the import of 300 domestically sensitive items following the removal of quantitative restrictions in April this year, of these 205 are agricultural products and 95 others including SSI items. While all the agricultural products are bound of the others only 26 items are bound. As a group, there has been a negative growth rate of 11% in the imports of these items during April - May, 2001 as compared to the same period last year.

As and when any domestic industry is affected adversely by unfairly priced or surge of imports, action such as safeguard action, anti-dumping action etc. can be initiated by the domestic manufacturers themselves to protect their interests. Similarly, domestic standards and quality requirements are being imposed on imported products and customs duties have been enhanced on a number of agricultural items. The Government has proposed a Bill for the amendment of the Foreign Trade (Development and Regulation) Act, to incorporate the provisions regarding imposition of QRs on safeguard grounds.

The price of any product depends on its quality, quantity of imports, market where sold, local taxes and levies etc. there is no single reference price for a product either imported or domestically produced. Further, import data is not compiled on consignment basis in India.